

# **SUPERFUND**

## **Fact Sheet**

### **GOULD SUPERFUND SITE** *Portland, Oregon*



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 2000

#### **Document Availability, Public Comment Period**

## **EPA Proposes No Further Action for Gould Groundwater**

EPA has announced a proposed plan for groundwater cleanup at the Gould Site. EPA is soliciting public input before making a final decision. EPA, in consultation with DEQ, will select a final remedy for the site's groundwater after considering all the information submitted during the 30-day public comment period. The proposal may be modified based on new information and public comment.

### **Introduction**

On August 10, 2000, EPA issued a proposed plan for groundwater at the Gould Superfund Site in Portland. This plan, officially called a proposed "Record of Decision" or ROD, outlines EPA's preferred alternative for addressing lead contamination in groundwater at the site. Cleanup of contaminated waste, soil, and debris currently underway at the site will be completed this summer.

This fact sheet summarizes background information about the site and the rationale for the cleanup alternative chosen. It concludes with instructions for making written comments, requesting a public meeting, and reviewing the official site record.

### **Summary of Preferred Cleanup Option**

EPA's recommendation for addressing groundwater at the Gould site is to take no further action. An assessment of the site shows that the completed cleanup actions and exposure controls for water have significantly reduced threats to human health and the environment. EPA believes that the improvements that have taken place as a result of soil cleanup will continue to be protective.

## **Public Comments Due September 8, 2000**

Steps will be taken to ensure that groundwater remains safe.

1. Groundwater monitoring will continue as a part of soil remediation. If future monitoring indicates the need to do so, EPA will initiate additional investigation of groundwater contamination and consider cleanup actions.
2. DEQ is doing more work to assess groundwater contamination from Rhone-Poulenc, an adjacent site. This investigation may show the need for cleanup of other groundwater contamination that migrated onto the Gould site. EPA's "no action alternative" will not limit DEQ's ability to require the PRPs (potentially responsible parties) for the adjacent property to clean up the groundwater.
3. Institutional controls implemented as part of the remedial action for soils will also reduce potential groundwater risks. EPA will evaluate these every five years, as required in the Superfund process. The next five-year review for Gould is scheduled for 2002.

## Summary of Site Characteristics and Groundwater Risks

The site is located on the flood plain of the Willamette River. The area surrounding the Gould site is zoned for heavy industrial use. The site itself is currently unoccupied. Future use of the property is limited to industrial or other uses compatible with the final cleanup. There are no drinking water supply wells on or down gradient from the Gould site. The area surrounding the site is served by a municipal water supply system. There are deep wells located near the Gould site that have been used to supply water for strictly industrial purposes.

Concentrations of lead in the groundwater in 1988 exceeded .05mg/l, the maximum contaminant level for drinking water that was in effect at that time, in some parts of the aquifer.

There was not enough information to make a decision in the 1988 ROD on the need for cleanup. EPA decided to move ahead with cleanup of the sources of lead contamination while groundwater was being evaluated. Additional studies have been conducted since and have not shown the need for groundwater cleanup of lead contamination. Groundwater monitoring results have shown lead levels in groundwater are below 0.015 mg/l, the current action level set by the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA believes that because current levels of lead contamination in the ground water are below these levels, there is an adequate margin of safety today and in the future for the community and the natural environment.

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## Site Description and History

Gould Superfund Site is the former location of a battery recycling and lead smelter facility. The site is located between NW St. Helen's Road and NW Front avenue. It is northwest of downtown in the heavily industrialized Doane Lake area. The site includes property owned by Gould Inc. and Rhone Poulenc, Inc. It also contains areas outside these property boundaries where battery casing and other residues from operations on the Gould property were placed.

Lead smelting operations began at the site in 1949. Operations included lead-acid battery recycling, lead smelting and refining, and lead oxide production. Gould purchased the property in 1979 and closed the facility in 1981. Discarded battery casing materials and other lead smelting wastes were used as fill at the site and on an adjacent property. Acid from batteries was drained into Doane Lake during several years of operation.

In 1981 and 1982, EPA and DEQ investigated the area and found lead contamination in the soil and groundwater. This study was the basis for the site's Superfund designation in 1983.

In 1985 Gould and the prior owner NL signed an Order on Consent with EPA where they agreed to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. This work was completed in 1988. The results formed the basis for an initial cleanup plan.

In 1988, EPA chose a cleanup remedy to address soil and groundwater contamination and issued a Record of Decision. Following a design process, cleanup began in 1993. Immediately, however, several problems with the cleanup method were discovered and cost estimates increased substantially. As a result, EPA decided that the original cleanup plan was no longer appropriate and began considering other options.

In 1997 EPA issued a ROD amendment that revised the plan for cleaning up soils on the site. EPA and the PRPs finalized a consent decree that required the PRPs to carry out the work in the amended ROD. Construction of the revised soil remedy began in 1998.



## Site Cleanup Substantially Complete

The following cleanup actions for contaminated waste and soil have been substantially completed. Final work, such as completing storm water connections and regrading the site, will be finished this summer.

- Excavation and treatment of surface soils, battery casing piles, buried battery casings, smelter waste, and other debris.
- Stabilization of contaminated soil and smelter waste to bind contamination.
- Treatment of more than 24,000 tons of contaminated battery casings, a lead fines stockpile, and other highly contaminated material.
- Excavation and dewatering of contaminated sediments in East Doane Lake.
- Filling of the East Doane Lake remnant.
- Excavation and disposal of several hundred tons of miscellaneous debris.
- Construction of an onsite containment facility, with liners and leachate collection..
- Consolidation of 77,000 cubic yards of contaminated material in the onsite containment facility.
- Institutional controls (environmental protection easements) to assure EPA access and restrictions on future property use.
- Ongoing groundwater monitoring to assure the effectiveness of the cleanup.
- Long-term operation and maintenance to ensure the effectiveness of the remedy over time.

## Public Comment Period

EPA will accept comments on this proposed plan during a public comment period from August 10, 2000 to September 8, 2000. Written comments should be sent to:

**Chip Humphrey**, Site Manager  
EPA, Oregon Operations Office  
811 SW Sixth Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
(503) 326-2678

## Public Meeting

If there is sufficient interest, EPA will also hold a public meeting to provide an opportunity to discuss the proposed cleanup plan and to receive comments. If you are interested in a meeting, call or write to Chip Humphrey (see above) before August 18, 2000.

*Contact EPA to request additional services for persons with disabilities.*

## For More Information

To request a copy of the full proposed plan, call Andrea Lindsay, Community Involvement Coordinator, at 206/553-1896 or email [lindsay.andrea@epa.gov](mailto:lindsay.andrea@epa.gov). The plan is available on EPA's web site at [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth); click on "index," click on "G" for Gould. The plan is also available at the locations listed below.

Anyone interested in learning more is encouraged to review the administrative record for the site. The proposed plan and other documents related to decisions and actions at the Gould Superfund Site can be found at these locations:

Multnomah County Library  
Central Library  
801 SW 10th  
Portland, Oregon 97201

EPA Region 10 Records Center  
Seventh Floor  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98101 ((206/ 553-4494)

## Inside: EPA Proposes No Further Action for Gould Groundwater.

EPA's recommendation for addressing groundwater at the Gould Superfund Site is to take no further action. An extensive cleanup of lead-contaminated waste, soil, and other potential sources of groundwater contamination has been substantially completed. An assessment shows that cleanup actions have significantly reduced threats to human health and the environment. To assure continued protection, groundwater monitoring would continue. Information on how you can comment on this proposal can be found inside this fact sheet.



United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

Region 10 (ECO-081)  
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